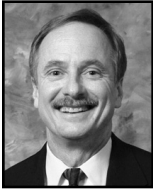


DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



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The **Department of Natural Resources (DNR)** is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the state's natural and cultural resources for current and future generations — a role it has embraced since the creation of Michigan's original Conservation Department in 1921.

In early 2011, Governor Rick Snyder issued Executive Order 2011-1, which abolished the Department of Natural Resources and Environment (created a year earlier by former Governor Jennifer M. Granholm) and forming "new" individual agencies: the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Environmental Quality. In making the announcement, Governor Snyder said that by operating as separate departments, each would be better able to focus on its core mission.

"Michigan is blessed with an abundance of natural resources and we need to be a leader and innovator in protecting these resources," Governor Snyder said. "Recreational fishing, hunting and boating activities alone contribute more than \$3 billion annually to our economy. Separating the DEQ and DNR means we can better address these key priorities."

An earlier executive order (2009-45) issued by Governor Granholm stated that, consistent with Section 3 of Article V of the Michigan Constitution of 1963, the director of the DNR shall be appointed by the governor, subject to disapproval under Section 6 of Article V of the Michigan Constitution of 1963, and shall serve at the pleasure of the governor. The director functions as the department's chief executive officer, monitors program activities to ensure efficiency and effectiveness of department operations, and ensures that the department's mission, policies and statutory mandates are met. The director's primary authority flows from the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (Act 451 of 1994, as amended) and is authorized by Executive Order 1991-31 to delegate decision-making authorities to appropriate levels within the department.

DNR divisions, programs and offices are housed within two main bureaus (Natural Resources and Administration), while some other positions report directly to the department director.

Natural Resources Bureau

The **Natural Resources Bureau** includes the Fisheries Division, the Forest Resources Division, the Law Enforcement Division, the Parks and Recreation Division, the Wildlife Division and the Minerals Management Section.

The **Fisheries Division** (www.michigan.gov/fishing) is mandated to protect and manage the state's aquatic resources, including fish populations, other aquatic life and aquatic habitat, which are held in trust for all Michigan citizens. The division promotes the wise use of these resources for the benefit of current and future generations.

Michigan offers a wealth of fishing opportunities with its two peninsulas that touch four of the five Great Lakes. The state is blessed with more than 11,000 inland lakes and 36,000 miles of rivers

and streams. Michigan has 3,000 miles of freshwater shoreline — more than any other state — and more total shoreline than any state except Alaska. In Michigan, you're never more than 85 miles from one of the Great Lakes. In April 2011, *Field & Stream* magazine's "FlyTalk" blog ranked Michigan as the top fly-fishing state in the nation, basing on factors including all-around opportunities, angler-friendly environment and cultural affinity to fly-fishing.

Fish populations and other forms of aquatic life are monitored and studied by biologists, who strive to ensure their long-term protection while keeping fishing in Michigan among the nation's best. Up to 14 fish species are hatched and reared at six state hatcheries, which have state-of-the-art facilities to produce fish of very high quality. These fish are stocked annually into designated public waters throughout the state to maintain or improve fish populations. Michigan ranks sixth in the nation in fishing with 1.1 million licensed anglers who annually contribute \$2 billion to Michigan's economy.

The **Forest Resources Division** (www.michigan.gov/forestplan) protects, manages and guides the use of a healthy forest resource base for the social, recreational, environmental and economic benefit of current and future generations. Michigan has one of the largest dedicated state forest systems in the nation, spanning nearly 4 million acres. This division sustainably manages the state forest system for many objectives, including timber production; providing a stable source of timber for industry; recreation opportunities; wildlife habitat; and resource protection. The Forest Resources Division also provides wildfire protection for public and private land across the state.

The **Law Enforcement Division** (www.michigan.gov/conservationofficers) is home to Michigan's conservation officers. Its mission is to protect Michigan's natural resources and environment, and the health, safety and enjoyment of the public through effective law enforcement and education. Conservation officers are state-licensed law enforcement officers with authority to administer all the criminal/civil laws of Michigan. While their primary duties focus on enforcing regulations for outdoor recreation activities, such as off-road vehicle use, snowmobiling, boating, hunting and fishing, they also engage in providing traditional law enforcement assistance, when needed, to local communities across the state. They, along with other support staff within the Law Enforcement Division, handle an array of other responsibilities, including education, recreational safety and public outreach. The division also provides investigative and enforcement services and coordinates emergency management and homeland security responsibilities for the department.

The **Parks and Recreation Division** (www.michigan.gov/stateparks) protects, preserves, acquires and manages Michigan's state parks, recreation areas, cultural and historic resources, trails, state forest recreation and more than 1,100 boating access sites. It also operates 17 state harbors and partners with 63 locally operated, public harbors that make up the Harbors of Refuge system. Michigan's 101 state parks and recreation areas host more than 22 million visitors annually and are a big attraction for Michigan's tourism industry, contributing \$650 million to the state's economy in day use and camping alone.

The Recreation Passport (www.michigan.gov/recreationpassport), introduced October 2010, provides a new way to sustainably fund programs for state parks, forest recreation, state trails and historic and cultural resources, and provides park development grants to local communities. Priced at just \$11 per vehicle (\$5 per motorcycle) and available for purchase to Michigan motorists when renewing their annual license plate registrations, the Recreation Passport replaced the window sticker for entry into all Michigan state parks, recreation areas and boat launches, making it easier and more affordable for people to enjoy and support outdoor recreation opportunities in Michigan.

The **Wildlife Division's** (www.michigan.gov/wildlife) mission is "to enhance, restore and conserve the state's wildlife resources, natural communities and ecosystems for the benefit of Michigan's citizens, visitors and future generations." The conservation of more than 400 species of animals — the birds and mammals that sustain our state's hunting heritage, as well as nongame wildlife, including threatened and endangered plant and animal species, is part of that mission. In addition, the Wildlife Division co-manages the state forests with the Forest Resources Division and directly administers approximately 400,000 acres of state game and wildlife management areas. Biologists make sound, science-based recommendations on hunting regulations, habitat management, and public hunting access, and protect more than 340 threatened and endangered plant and animal species.

Michigan is among the top states in the nation in almost every hunting category with more than 750,000 licensed hunters contributing \$1.3 billion annually to the state economy, while Michigan's wildlife watchers spend \$1.62 billion. The Nongame Fish and Wildlife Fund, supported through donations and the purchase of the Michigan Wildlife Habitat license plate, supports natural heritage research, education and habitat restoration projects to identify, protect, manage, and restore native plant and animal species.

The **Minerals Management Section** administers 6.4 million acres of Michigan's mineral estate, which includes leasing the rights to explore for state-owned metallic, nonmetallic, oil and gas minerals, and underground natural gas storage areas. These leases annually contribute between \$40 million and \$60 million to Michigan's State Parks Endowment Fund for parks improvement, and to the Game and Fish Protection Trust Fund for game and fish management. Until the constitutionally mandated cap was reached in May 2011, these revenues were also deposited into the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for recreational land acquisition and development grants that continue to be issued today.

Minerals Management also provides geological and mineral resource evaluation services for department land transactions; oversees public safety repair needs for the state-owned abandoned underground mine inventory; and works closely with other state agencies, industry and environmental groups, and the public on matters related to these vital natural resource-based economies.

Administration Bureau

The **Administration Bureau** includes the Finance and Operations Division, the Marketing and Outreach Division, the Michigan Historical Center, the Office of Legal Services and the Technology Section.

The **Finance and Operations Division** provides a complete range of financial and administrative support, including budget and financial services, facilities management, real estate, grants management, purchasing, field operations support and business operations. This division is heavily involved in customer service efforts for both internal and external customers.

The **Marketing and Outreach Division** provides an array of services, including hunter and angler recruitment and retention, communications, website administration, license sales customer systems, marketing, and educational programs for all ages and experience levels. The division's efforts are chiefly designed to find creative, new ways to get more Michigan residents and visitors outside, enjoying our state's unmatched natural spaces, and taking advantage of a growing variety of recreation opportunities.

The **Michigan Historical Center's** (www.michigan.gov/michiganhistory) museum and archival programs help people discover, enjoy and find inspiration in their heritage. The center includes the Michigan Historical Museum, 10 regional museums, the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve, and the Archives of Michigan. These educational, interactive sites annually welcome more than 380,000 visitors of all ages, including 60,000 schoolchildren who explore MHC's flagship museum in Lansing every year. The center also includes the Michigan Freedom Trail Commission; the Michigan Historical Commission; the Michigan Historical Marker program; the Michigan Iron Industry Museum Advisory Board; the Michigan State Historic Records Advisory Board; and Seeking Michigan (www.seekingmichigan.org), an evolving website bringing even more people in touch with the stories of Michigan's families, homes, businesses, communities and landscapes as told by unique, digitized source documents, maps, films, images, oral histories and artifacts.

The **Office of Legal Services** is the department's liaison to the Office of Attorney General for litigation involving state properties, employees and natural resource-related injuries. The office also provides guidance in response to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests and assists in drafting and updating department policies and procedures, administrative rules and DNR director's orders for land use, fisheries and wildlife conservation. The office also maintains original, signed memoranda of understanding (MOUs) and other interagency agreements and makes recommendations on contract and grant agreement language.

The **Technology Section** provides central coordination for all of the department's information-technology (IT) activities. It serves as the single point of contact in working with the Department of Technology, Management and Budget to address department IT priorities, status and needs. This includes critical work on long-term planning, funding and initiatives; development and maintenance of applications; addressing and resolving network issues; and completing inventories. The Technology Section is also responsible for compliance with data privacy and security standards, IT data storage limitations, Internet connectivity and email usage and storage.

The DNR also encompasses several individuals, entities, offices, committees and commissions that help preserve, promote and interpret Michigan's natural, historic and cultural resources and provide essential support and guidance to the above-referenced programs. They include:

The **Tribal Coordination Office** works to develop and sustain positive and mutually beneficial, cooperative relationships with native Michigan tribes, with emphasis on the natural resource provisions of the 1842 Treaty and the 1836 Treaty, with its associated Great Lakes and Inland Consent Decrees.

The **Upper Peninsula Regional Office** serves to represent the department and director in the Upper Peninsula by working closely with stakeholders, media outlets, community organizations, local units of government, elected officials and the public to build awareness and understanding of department policies and programs, natural resource-related issues and outdoor recreation opportunities.

The **Public Information Office** works closely with the executive office and department divisions to coordinate the communication of core DNR messages on a statewide basis to a variety of audiences, serves as primary contact for media representatives, and partners in the marketing of department initiatives, programs and services — all in an effort to strengthen the public's connection to Michigan's natural and cultural resources.

The **Policy and Legislative offices** focus their efforts on administrative rules and regulations and emerging natural resources issues, strengthening the department's relationship with the Legislature, helping to evaluate and set department policy, and assisting the director and management team with strategic planning, implementation of department priorities, and special assignments.

The **Michigan Natural Resources Commission** (www.michigan.gov/nrc) is a seven-member public body whose members are appointed by the governor and subject to the advice and consent of the Senate. The NRC's primary authority flows from the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (Act 451 of 1994, as amended). This act codified nearly 200 applicable statutes, many dating back to the 1800s. Voter adoption of Proposal G in 1996 vests exclusive authority in the NRC to regulate the taking of game. Residents are encouraged to attend and become actively involved in the commission's regularly scheduled public forums.

The **Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund** (www.michigan.gov/dnr-grants) was created in 1976, thanks to a forward-thinking state Legislature, to create a sustainable funding source for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation opportunities in Michigan. Funds for these grants are derived from interest paid on the proceeds of oil and gas sales on state-managed land — thus trading one non-renewable resource for another. Applications for Trust Fund grants are available to local and state governments. Projects are encouraged to provide universal accessibility for all types of public recreation. The Trust Fund board of trustees is a five-member body, appointed by the governor, to review applications and make recommendations for development projects and land acquisitions. The list of projects is then reviewed and approved by the Legislature and the appropriation of dollars is signed by the governor before projects are started. The Trust Fund has, in large part, been responsible for helping to create Michigan's enviable trail system and local and state park systems. It has, to date, awarded more than \$988 million toward land acquisition and public outdoor recreation development projects in every county throughout Michigan.

The **Mackinac Island State Park Commission** is an autonomous entity with authority to acquire, construct, maintain and improve property related to the historic Straits of Mackinac. The commission was formed in 1895 and is responsible for all aspects of managing Mackinac State Historic Parks (www.mackinacparks.com). It meets approximately five times a year and is made up of seven members appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Senate. Commissioners serve six-year terms.

Additionally, there are several committees and councils that advise the department. These include (but are not limited to):

- Michigan Snowmobile and Trails Advisory Council
- Waterways Commission
- Upper Peninsula Citizens' Advisory Councils

Learn more about all of the DNR's many advisory bodies by visiting www.michigan.gov/dnr, choosing "About the DNR" and then selecting "Commissions, Boards and Committees."

